

Appl. No. 10/682,045  
Amdt. dated September 1, 2004  
Reply to Office action of June 1, 2004

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 12 are amended herein. New claims 12-16 are added. The remaining claims are not amended in this response. Claim 3 is canceled.

1. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of ~~pharmaceutical-grade~~ ferric citrate and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent, wherein the ferric citrate is fixed in molecular structure and contains a definite mean number of water molecules.

2. (original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 for providing iron to animals.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method for ~~manufacturing-pharmaceutical-grade~~ preparing ferric citrate comprising:  
mixing solid citric acid with a solid ferric salt to form a mixture;  
adding alcohol to the mixture; and  
filtering the mixture to obtain solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade~~ ferric citrate.

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5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, which further ~~comprising~~ comprises drying said solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate obtained~~ by heat.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate obtained~~ is ~~drying~~ dried at 30°C to 120°C.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, which further ~~comprising~~ comprises purifying said solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate obtained, wherein solid~~ ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate obtained in mixed with~~ by mixing with alcohol and ~~filtered mixture~~ filtering the mixture one or more times.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, which further ~~comprising~~ comprises drying said solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate purified~~ by heat.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said solid ~~pharmaceutical-grade ferric citrate is~~ dried ~~purified is drying~~ at 30°C to 120°C.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ferric salt is ferric chloride, ferric sulfate or ferric nitrite.

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11. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical-grade~~ ferric citrate having the empirical formula  $\text{FeC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_7 \cdot 3.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

12. (currently amended) A food comprising ~~pharmaceutical-grade~~ ferric citrate as claimed in claim 11.

13. (new) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ferric citrate is prepared by a solid-solid reaction.

14. (new) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein each ferric citrate molecule has 3.5 water molecules.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the obtained ferric citrate is fixed in molecular structure and contains a definite mean number of water molecules.

16. (new) A method for treating a patient afflicted with iron-deficiency diseases, renal failure or hyperphosphatemia, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 to the patient.

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